

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



SUMMER 2015

NEWSLETTER



SWIMMER'S ITCH OR CERCARIAL DERMATITIS

Swimmer's Itch is an allergic reaction to parasites that burrow into the skin. The parasites (Schistosomatidae) are commonly found in fresh water lakes, rivers or streams and can also be occasionally found in salt water. Schistosomatidae are released into the water from infected snails or waterfowl. Humans are exposed when they swim or wade in the water.



SYMPTOMS

A very itchy skin rash! The skin develops small red spots which start to itch, tingle or burn about 12 hours after exposure. The symptoms vary from person to person and itching may last up to a week. The more the exposure to the contaminated water, the worse the symptoms will become.

COMMUNICABILITY

Swimmer's Itch cannot be spread from person to person. Direct exposure to parasite contaminated water is required.

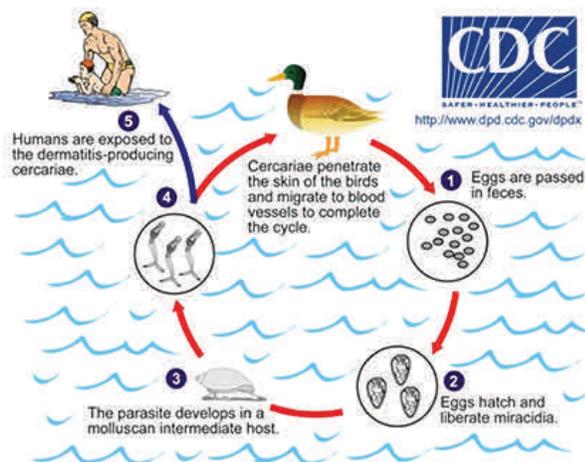
TREATMENT

Those that develop itching after swimming should rub exposed skin briskly with a towel to help remove the parasites. Take a shower as soon as possible after swimming. Avoid scratching the skin as the rash may become infected. Control itching with over-the-counter anti-itch medications. Soaking in an oatmeal bath and applying cool compresses will also help to alleviate the itching.

Swimmer's Itch is very uncomfortable, but it is usually short-lived. The parasites are not able to live in a human host and die off quickly. The rash should clear up in several days. If the itching persists longer than a week, or if the skin appears to be infected, see your doctor.

PREVENTION

Avoid exposure to fresh water during mid-summer, fall months and on very warm days. If a high number of water fowl (ducks/geese), or snails are in the area, avoid exposure to that body of water.



CHIKUNGUNYA



Chikungunya virus is transmitted to people by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on a person already infected with the virus. Infected mosquitoes can then spread the virus to other people through bites. Outbreaks of chikungunya infection have occurred in countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In late 2013, it was found for the first time in the Americas on islands in the Caribbean. There is the potential that the virus will be spread to other areas by infected travelers.

SYMPTOMS

The most common symptoms of chikungunya virus infection are fever and joint pain. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling or rash. Symptoms usually begin 3-7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. The infection does not often result in death, but the symptoms can be severe and disabling.

COMMUNICABILITY

Chikungunya virus is most often spread to people by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. These are the same mosquitoes that transmit dengue virus. These mosquitoes bite mostly in the daytime and are found throughout much of the world.

TREATMENT

There is no medicine or vaccine to treat or prevent chikungunya virus infection. Those infected can treat the symptoms by getting plenty of rest, drinking fluids to prevent dehydration and taking medicines such as ibuprofen to reduce fever and pain.

PREVENTION

Chikungunya virus infection can be prevented by avoiding mosquito bites. When weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Use insect repellents containing DEET. Reduce the number of mosquitoes outside your home by emptying standing water from containers. Mosquito bites can also be avoided by staying in places with air conditioning or use window and door screens.

Resource: www.cdc.gov/chikungunya

Immunization Waiver Education News

New this year in Michigan is the requirement that all ***non-medical**** immunization waivers be distributed by local health departments. Parents/guardians must contact their local health department to schedule an immunization waiver education appointment and to obtain a **certified** State of Michigan Immunization Waiver Form. According to the *Michigan School and Licensed Childcare Immunization Rules for Claiming a Non-medical Waiver for Immunization*, the most current version of the "State of Michigan Immunization Waiver Form" with a revision date of January 1, 2015, must be used. In addition, the waiver must:

- Bear the county health department sealed stamp and signature of the authorizing agent completing parent/guardian immunization education.
- Be completed in its entirety.
- Be **unaltered** and in its original official state.

In order to complete the waiver process, schools/childcare centers will need to:

- Record the non-medical waiver in the School Immunization Report System (SIRS) within MCIR.
- Send a copy of the non-medical waiver to the health department with the immunization and waiver reports.
- Maintain the non-medical waiver form on file with the immunization records.

Parents of students attending schools within Saginaw County can contact the Saginaw County Department of Public Health's Immunization Program at (989) 758-3840 for additional information or to schedule an immunization waiver education appointment.

***Distribution of medical immunization waivers will continue to be handled by primary care providers.**

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
REPORTED FOR SAGINAW COUNTY
FOR THE QUARTER
04/01/2015-06/30/2015**

Disease	No. Reported
AIDS, AGGREGATE	0
ANIMAL BITE	18
CAMPYLOBACTER	3
CHIKUNGUNYA	0
CHLAMYDIA (Genital)	317
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	3
FLU LIKE DISEASE	1176
GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS	583
GIARDISSIS	1
GONORRHEA	99
HEAD LICE	50
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	6
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS C CHRONIC	16
INFLUENZA	27
LEGIONELLOSIS	1
MENINGITIS-ASEPTIC	2
MENINGITIS-BACTERIAL OTHER	1
MUMPS	0
MYOBACTERIUM	0
PERTUSSIS	1
RABIES	0
SALMONELLOSIS	4
SHIGELLOSIS	0
SHINGLES	0
STREP THROAT	41
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIA, INVASIVE	8
SYPHILLIS-LATE LATENT	2
TUBERCULOSIS	1
VZ INFECTION, UNSPECIFIED	2
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	0

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE YTD
REPORTED FOR SAGINAW COUNTY
01/01/2015-06/30/2015**

Disease	No. Reported
AIDS, AGGREGATE	0
ANIMAL BITE	39
CAMPYLOBACTER	3
CHIKUNGUNYA	0
CHLAMYDIA (Genital)	604
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	3
FLU LIKE DISEASE	3993
GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS	2116
GIARDISSIS	2
GONORRHEA	163
HEAD LICE	98
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	10
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS C CHRONIC	47
INFLUENZA	43
LEGIONELLOSIS	2
MENINGITIS-ASEPTIC	3
MENINGITIS-BACTERIAL OTHER	2
MUMPS	0
MYOBACTERIUM	0
PERTUSSIS	2
RABIES	0
SALMONELLOSIS	7
SHIGELLOSIS	3
SHINGLES	0
STREP THROAT	111
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIA, INVASIVE	11
SYPHILLIS-LATE LATENT	2
TUBERCULOSIS	1
VZ INFECTION, UNSPECIFIED	2
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	0

Please visit our website at www.saginawpublichealth.org where our communicable disease pamphlets are available.

This newsletter is provided to all Saginaw County healthcare providers, hospitals, schools, local colleges, universities, urgent care facilities and local media centers.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by e-mail please submit your e-mail address to: sellison@saginawcounty.com

Articles for this newsletter are written and researched by the following members of the Personal and Preventive Health Services Division:

Tawnya Simon, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.A., Susie Garlick, R.N.,
Kemberly Parham, R.N., M.S.N.



**Saginaw County Department of Public Health
1600 N. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602**